

MEMBERS PRESENT

Springfield Location:

Alan Dietrich	David Elder	Maureen Haugh-Stover	Merlin Lehman
Dee Ann Ryan	Randy Staton	Julie Stremlau	Brooke Whitted

Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)

Bob Bloom	Kathy Briseno	Seth Harkins	Edgar Hernandez
Jason Johnson			

MEMBERS ABSENT

Debra Kinsey	Evon Robinzine	Gary Seelbach	Julie Stremlau
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STAFF PRESENT

Springfield Location:

Mindy Miller	John Schornagel
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Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)

Robert Watts

LIAISONS PRESENT

Springfield Location

Bill Pumo, IAASE

GUESTS PRESENT

Springfield Location:

Jeff Catlett, ACADIA
Christina Hawkins, ACADIA

Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)

None

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Briseno called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Members, staff, liaisons and guests in attendance introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 9, 2011 MINUTES

The Authority reviewed the minutes of the June 9, 2011 Authority meetings.

MOTION: *Brooke Whitted moved and Edgar Hernandez seconded that the minutes of the June 9, 2011 Authority meeting be approved as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.*

III. STAFF REPORT

Director Schornagel referenced the following informational handouts in member board packets:

- **Staff Activity Reports** for June and July. He noted that CRSA had 382 referrals in FY 11, which has been consistent within the last few years.
- **Report on DHS' Website reporting on children through the age of 17 who are receiving services in institutional settings funded by DHS/DDD and DHS/DMH.** Director Schornagel explained that this report was mandated by PA 95-622. It also discusses community-based alternatives to institutional services and efforts made by both DHS divisions to ensure that children remain in their homes and communities as much as possible while receiving necessary supports and services to address their developmental disabilities or severe emotional disorders.

Dee Ann Ryan expressed her concern that this report to the Governor is misleading, because it does not take into account the number of children with these disabilities who are placed in institutional care through ISBE and it also does not take into account the numbers of children or the cost for the children who are being repeatedly placed in acute care hospitals due to inadequate community-based care. She said that this type of misinformation paints a false picture of the adequacy of community-based services for children in Illinois and makes demonstrating the incidence of least restrictive care and proving cost effectiveness for better community-based services, difficult. There was discussion about implementation of E.P.S.D.T services and the development of Psychiatric Residential Treatment Services (PRTFs) for Medicaid eligible children with mental illness and the possible positive impact it might have on creating more and better community-based service arrays in Illinois. Seth Harkins commented that the Illinois Medicaid State plan would need to be modified in order for PRTF's for Medicaid eligible children with mental illness to be developed. Bob Bloom questioned why Illinois could not use out-of-state PRTF's in the absence of any in-state PRTFs? There was also comment that three child and adolescent service teams are now being rolled out by DHS to hopefully improve community-based service planning.

Director Schornagel reported that Debbie McCarrel, who has been an alternate designee from DHS, Division of Community Health and Prevention since 2009 has left that agency. Julie Stremlau, the primary designee from DCHP has done such a good job of attending CRSA meetings, that Debbie never got a chance to attend a CRSA meeting! We wish Debbie well.

Director Schornagel urged members to stop in the lobby on their way out of the meeting today and pick a copy of the Illinois Times. There is an article entitled "When Adoptions Go Wrong". The article focuses on the issues of psychiatric lockout and custody relinquishment in Illinois. Several parents who felt compelled to give up custody of their adopted kids to get their mental health needs met were interviewed as well as several state agencies and the article included excerpts from our last two CRSA annual reports and an interview with Director Schornagel. Mindy will save some of the articles and distribute them to CRSA members who are in Chicago today and want to see the article. Director Schornagel reiterated Ms. Ryan's earlier comments that that some of the funds needed to implement E.P.S.D.T. and to develop PRTFs in Illinois are being spent on "revolving-door" psychiatric hospitalizations and could be redirected if there was the will to do it.

IV. AGENCY REPORTS

Randy Staton from DHS/ORS announced that Ms. Kris Smith has been appointed as an Interim Director of that division, replacing former Division Director, Rob Kilbury.

Maureen Haugh-Stover announced that Ms. Reta Hoskins, is current Acting Director of the Developmental Disability Division.

Alan Dietrich commented on recent changes within the Division of Mental Health; noting that Dessie Trohalides has been appointed as the new Director of the Individual Care Grant program. He also commented on personnel shifts within the mental health division noting that six contractual folks contracts were not renewed on July 1, 2012 and that since then three new workers were brought into the Division, but as state employees, not contractual employees.

V. OLD BUSINESS

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. FY 12 CRSA Surplus

Director Schornagel advised the Authority that CRSA has approximately \$70,000.00 of its FY 12 appropriation that has yet to be allocated in the FY 12 Spending plan. He explained that CMS unexpectedly picked up a substantial portion of staff retirement contributions for a third year in a row, which, when combined by the 3% increase appropriated to the Authority in FY 12, makes sufficient dollars available to fill a full time position during FY 12. Director Schornagel referenced the possibility of hiring a contractual employee whose contract would expire on June 30, 2012 as a way to address the issue of position sustainability in uncertain budget times. He added that he had initially thought of re-filling the vacant Network Development Coordinator position if sufficient funds became available, but that there was very little support

expressed for re-filling that position at the CRSA Strategic Planning Conference in June. He commented that this opens the possibility of creating and filling another position on the Authority to meet the needs of the agency. Kathy Briseno commented that the Executive Committee discussed a variety of agency needs and positions that might be created to meet those needs. Members of the Authority also discussed some potential contractual positions that could be created to meet various agency needs. Director Schornagel agreed to solicit feedback from staff. Brooke Whitted suggested that the Director consider hiring a contractual employee that would help the agency to maintain the high level of quality services to referents. Merlin Lehman suggested that a contractual consultant could be hired for any specific project. Similarly, Dee Ann Ryan suggested that a contractual position might be considered to help create a safety net for families who are forced by circumstance to involuntarily relinquish guardianship of their children to meet their mental health needs. Director Schornagel was encouraged by the Committee to think and act creatively about how to best utilize the unexpected funding surplus to benefit the agency.

B. FY 13 CRSA Appropriation Request

Director Schornagel advised the Authority that it is time for the Authority to start working on a CRSA FY 13 appropriation. He intends to present a draft spending plan to the Authority in October for review and consideration. He explained that he will need to communicate the CRSA's FY 13 appropriation level to ISBE in October to dovetail with their budgeting process for FY 13. He added that the Executive Committee has recommended that he factor the salary of the currently vacant fifth field or contractual position into the FY 13 spending plan.

C. CRSA Strategic Plan

The Authority reviewed an initial draft of the Strategic Plan Overview written by Director Schornagel. The Executive Committee recommended that members and all participants at the Strategic Planning Conference be encouraged to offer comments and amendments in the coming weeks that will be added to the document and redistributed to the Authority with the October board packet for discussion and specific goal setting.

D. Other

None

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Executive Committee

Vice-Chairperson Briseno reported many of the recent Executive Committee discussion items have been covered under other parts of the agenda.

B. External Communications Committee

Committee Co-Chairperson Briseno reported that External Communications Committee met in June making final amendments to the CRSA FY 10 Annual Report, which was then published and distributed. She added that the Committee has agreed to meet again in September to make suggestions for the FY 11 Annual Report, the CRSA website and possibly the CRSA brochure.

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION

There was discussion about the Authority requesting more frequent information on the CRSA caseload. This was a theme that surfaced at the recent Strategic Planning Conference. Several agencies on the Authority want to be involved earlier in CRSA cases so as to avoid cases progressing to the crisis level and potentially to dispute resolution level. Director Schornagel commented that he would look into development of regular updates to the board, providing a compendium of “Reasons for Referral” from the CRSA facesheets to give the board a better understanding of the kinds of cases flowing to the Authority. He also indicated that he could provide specific case vignettes, to highlight the most recent referral trends and emerging sub-populations coming to the Authority. He added that most of this information is reviewed annually in the CRSA Annual Reports. Director Schornagel also commented that he already keeps member agencies’ representatives informed of cases in which agency administrations could intervene early on in cases that are likely to progress into dispute resolution cases. He commented that when CRSA field staffs think that central office staff at CRSA member agencies can help resolve difficult services impasses that they make sure that appropriate releases are in file in those cases and that he, as Director, screens those cases for appropriateness and for factual accuracy before he passes them on the member agency representatives. He also commented that some callers do not want to involve state agency administrations, especially in situations where appeals are occurring and in which legal interventions could occur. This is particularly evident in cases where parents are considering legal challenges in educational decision making, or child welfare activities could ensue or administrative appeals to state service/funding denials and being contemplated. Brooke Whitted commented that families’ rights to confidentiality are both a legal right and a written Authority Service Principle.

There was also discussion about CRSA mass marketing. Regardless of the implementation of the CRSA website and CRSA staff participation in resource fairs, LANs, etc., there are ongoing concerns on the Board that parents and agencies don’t find CRSA services fast enough to avoid cases developing into crises situations. As an example, Dee Ann Ryan commented that if

CRSA were to do targeted outreach to all of the adoption preservation workers statewide, that more adoption disruptions and custody relinquishment cases might be avoided by contacting CRSA earlier. Similarly, she wondered why all CRSA case referrals are not automatically referred to the appropriate LANs. David Elder commented that all CRSA referrals are LAN appropriate because of the regional variations in LAN effectiveness and the limited scope of LAN funding utility. Director Schornagel commented that some families do not want to

involve their local LANs in their case because of privacy concerns. He added that the Ad Hoc Committee on External Communications has discussed a controlled expansion of CRSA so that a sudden surge in demand for CRSA services does not eclipse the agency's limited staff size and limited financial resources.

IX. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dee Ann Ryan commented that ACMHAI, the Association of Community Mental Health Authorities of Illinois, of which she is a member, is recommending the creation of a Children's Cabinet under the leadership of the Governor's office to promote more effective networking and problem solving among public agencies in Illinois that serve children and their families.

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: *Brooke Whitted moved and Randy Staton seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 10:50 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.*